

Fraser South

November SEHAB Report

Representative: Lesley England

Community Advisor: Paul Neufeld

1. Any positive things that are directly related to DFO.

A. *PSSI CIP grants*

Serpentine Enhancement Society (SES): Tynehead Hatchery

- Have purchased and installed a new UV system that has increased the survival rate of Chinook.

Nickomekl Enhancement Society (NES): Nickomekl Hatchery

- Have received \$50,000 towards drilling a new well. This well has been drilled and will have VSD added to assist with water flow and costs. Some work is still to be done with the assistant of Leforge regarding building the new water tower.

Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club– Little Campbell Hatchery

- Have received \$50,000 towards refurbishing their current well. Work is delayed until better weather conditions.

B. *All groups are working well with their Community Advisor*

- All feel strongly supported by Paul Neufeld and his team.

C. *Serpentine Enhancement Society (SES): Tynehead Hatchery – Emergency Project*

- Thank you to Paul, our CA, and the restoration team when our outlet pipe from the Coho Rearing Pond blocked and caused a stoppage in flow of water. Work had to be done by water to replace the piping (blocked by a tree root) and restoration was able to authorize the work that had to be done immediately. Flow is now working well. All Coho Fry survived.

D. *Cougar Creek Streamkeepers*

- DFO provided a new lid for the Cougar Creek Streamkeepers incubator box located in Cougar Canyon. This new lid, new egg trays built by CA Paul, and eyed chum eggs have all been installed this winter. We hope to see chum emerging in the box and from some human-dug redds in the bottom of Cougar Creek.

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2. Any issues that are affecting groups and their projects that are related to other agencies.

B) Groundwater Payments

Nickomekl, Tynehead and Little Campbell Hatcheries

- Hatcheries are still wanting answers on why they must pay for well water when the water is used directly for raising salmon. All are thankful that this is an item that is staying on the RHQ meeting agendas.

3. A general update of what has been happening with your society that you would like to share.

- All hatcheries have coped well with the high waters this winter. No severe flooding as in the past. However, there has been major gravel movement at the Tynehead Hatchery.

Abbotsford Ravine Park Salmon Enhancement Society (ARPS) – Ravine Hatchery

- Coho eggs have been supplied to the local schools for the Salmonid in the Classroom Program. Most schools do their releases in the streams by their schools.
- There was a struggle in obtaining brood stock – brood stock is man caught within two local streams. Eggs were brought in from Chilliwack Hatchery.

Nickomekl enhancement society: Nickomekl Hatchery

- A new website going live this week.
- Chinook and Chum are now ponded.
- Coho eggs have been supplied to the local schools for the Salmonid in the Classroom Program. Less schools this year after loss of Coho eggs last year.

Serpentine Enhancement Society: Tynehead Hatchery

- A big thank you to Nickomekl Hatchery for assisting in obtaining near quota for Chinook this last fall. Our Chinook return was almost non-existent. The production plan allows Tynehead and Nickomekl Hatcheries to share Chinook between sites if required.
- Chum and Chinook are all ponded.
- Coho eggs have been supplied to the local schools for the Salmonid in the Classroom Program
- All educational classes are booked for Spring.
- Coho in rearing pond are growing well with zero mortality.

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Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club– Little Campbell Hatchery

- Met targets for Production Planning – 56,000 Chinook and 35,000 Coho.
- Used Parasite S as a preventative this year which increased survival rates.
- Busy planning for rebuild of the Hatchery. Still do not have a building permit and still raising funds. Rebuild needed to move away from flooding area.
- The plan is for 100 educational classes this Spring with 46 already booked.

Cougar Creek Streamkeepers

- Cougar Creek Streamkeepers enjoyed recording our highest-ever spawner count this past season Oct - Dec 2023: 328 wild coho.
- Our wild coho run (descendants of Pete Willows' 20 years of coho-rearing in that same incubator box) is doing well. Now it's time to try to get chum established too. Despite generous releases of fry every year for many years, we're just not getting chum returns. Hopefully chum fry hatched in Cougar Creek's own spring-water and creek bottom will find their way back
- In Sept 2023, we held our 3rd annual 2-day Fish Habitat Stewardship Workshop in collaboration with BC Wildlife Federation. Highlights included building 3 spawning weirs (which wild coho obligingly made use of in December) and installing a rain garden in Cory Drive Park, adjacent to Cougar Canyon.
- For other news, check out our "Highlights of 2023" slideshow, available on our website at www.cougarcreekstreamkeepers.ca
- A slideshow is presently included with "Recent & upcoming events", right at the top of the website homepage. It will soon be permanently available in the website Gallery.